

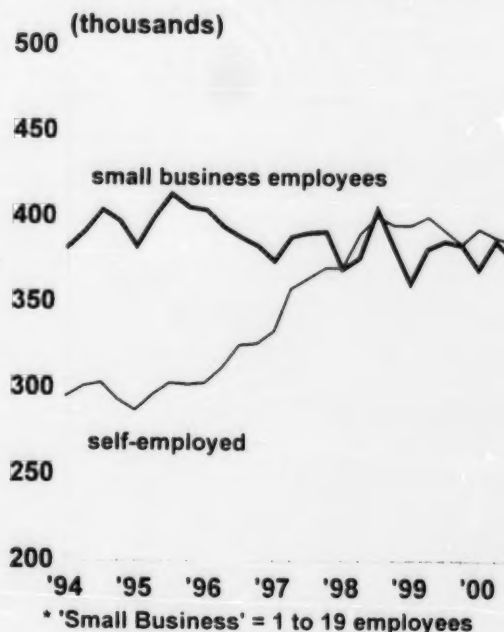
Small Business Quarterly ♦ Third Quarter 2000

- The number of self-employed persons with employees of their own fell 10 percent in third quarter 2000 over the same three months of 1999. This represents a net decline of 13,000 people. Conversely, the number of self-employed people without paid employees was up over 2 percent from the third quarter of 1999. This is a somewhat ambiguous indicator because some of these self-employed people choose to be so because of a lack of attractive employee jobs. Others prefer the independence and flexibility of self-employment and are so employed by choice.
- Although the number of businesses with between 1 and 4 employees was down 2 percent compared to the third quarter of 1999, the number of small businesses in other size categories continued to rise. Businesses with 5 to 9 employees increased 3 percent, those with 10 to 19 employees were up 7 percent and those with 20 to 49 employees jumped 9 percent.
- There was a 5 percent drop in the number of new business incorporations, from 5,322 in the third quarter of 1999 to 5,044 in the third quarter of 2000. However, there was 4 percent growth in the number of businesses incorporated outside the province registering to do business in British Columbia.
- On the more positive side, the number of business bankruptcies in the province fell 8 percent. However, consumer bankruptcies rose 15 percent. This could be an indicator of possible future problems

for small businesses if consumers are obliged to cut back on spending.

- The value of commercial building permits issued in British Columbia was up 8 percent in the third quarter of 2000 compared to the same months of 1999. In Vancouver, the increase was 13 percent. However, urban housing starts dropped 20 percent, both for British Columbia as a whole and for the Vancouver area. The drop in construction activity is bad news for the small business sector since many construction firms and contractors are either small businesses or self-employed. However, the increase in the value of building permits may indicate that construction activity will be on the rise soon.

Employees in B.C. Small Businesses, * and Numbers of Self-Employed



Profile of Self-Employed in British Columbia

Rapid Growth in Self-Employment Easing

Throughout the nineties, there was rapid growth in the number of people who were self-employed in British Columbia. Near the end of the decade, the number appears to have levelled off at around 390,000.

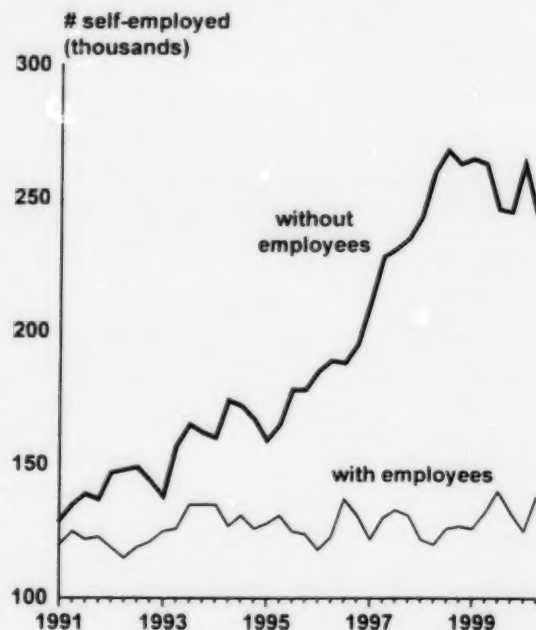
It is unlikely that there is any single explanation for the burgeoning incidence of self-employment in British Columbia. Undoubtedly, economic uncertainty and a scarcity of good jobs have forced a number of people to become self-employed when they may have preferred to be employees. On the other hand, self-employment offers some flexibility that other types of employment do not. Students, semi-retired persons, or even people looking to earn extra income by moonlighting may prefer self-employment to other options. These people may not view self-employment as a career, but rather as a short-term arrangement to meet current needs.

In addition to people forced into self-employment and those choosing to be self-employed to fit their current lifestyle, there are also those driven by entrepreneurial spirit, who desire to build their own businesses from the ground up and perhaps plan to become employers some time in the future.

The growth in self-employment occurred entirely within the group of self-employed with no paid help. The group of self-employed persons with employees has remained fairly constant over the last ten years. This would seem to indicate that the motivation for self-employment has changed in the last decade. The newly self-employed are far less likely to be looking to create jobs for anyone other than themselves.

From 1991 to 2000, there was a 40 percent increase in the number of self-employed in British Columbia. The number of self-employed without employees experienced a 77 percent rise, while the number with employees was virtually flat. As a result, the share of self-employed without employees increased from 51 to 65 percent of total self-employed.

Self-Employment in British Columbia



Self-Employed Work Both Longer and Shorter Hours

People who are self-employed tend to work more hours per week compared to those who are employees. In 2000, the average workweek in British Columbia was almost 40 hours for a self-employed person, about 5 hours more than the average 35-hour workweek for employees. However, using an average number can be misleading. Of the

group of people who were self-employed, 31 percent worked in excess of 50 hours per week and 34 percent worked less than 35 hours per week. This compares to 5 percent and 27 percent, respectively, for employees.

Average Workweek



It appears that self-employed workers fall into one of three groups. There are the usual part-time and full-time groups that employees fall into, and then there is a group that works overtime as a matter of habit, whether by choice because they enjoy their work, or by necessity because they are trying to keep their heads above water.

For Canada as a whole, this group represents an even larger proportion, with 36 percent of the self-employed averaging 50 hours or more per week. The average workweek for self-employed workers in Canada is approximately 42 hours, two full hours more than the British Columbia average.

Self-Employed by Industry

Over three-quarters of self-employed workers in British Columbia work in a service sector industry. Within this group, 20 percent are in the professional, scientific and technical services classification. Another 16 percent work in trade.

Of the less than one-quarter of self-employed workers who are occupied in a goods-producing industry, over half are employed in construction.

These numbers are roughly comparable to those for Canada as a whole. There is a slightly smaller proportion of self-employed workers in the service sector (72 percent versus 77 percent for BC), but the breakout of industries within the service sector are fairly similar in terms of their share of self-employed workers. Within the goods-producing sector, construction still leads the way (42 percent of self-employed workers in that sector), but agriculture is almost as significant with a 37 percent share of goods-producing self-employed workers (compared to only 17 percent in British Columbia).

There are some significant differences between self-employed with and without paid help. Although the breakdown between service sector and goods-producing sector industries is still about three-quarters to one, the distribution within those sectors is quite different. For self-employed workers with no employees, the professional, scientific and technical services classification comprises 31 percent of the service sector breakdown. Only 16 percent of self-employed people with employees working in a service sector industry are in this classification. Trade is the largest grouping for these workers with 27 percent of the service sector employment (compared to 15 percent for self-employed without paid help). Accommodation and food services is another significant category for

those with paid help (15 percent versus only 2 percent for those with no employees).

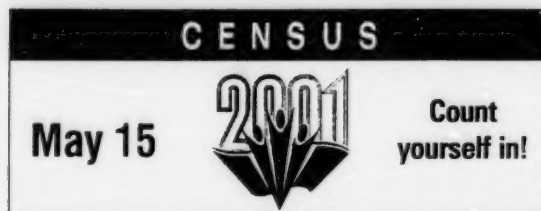
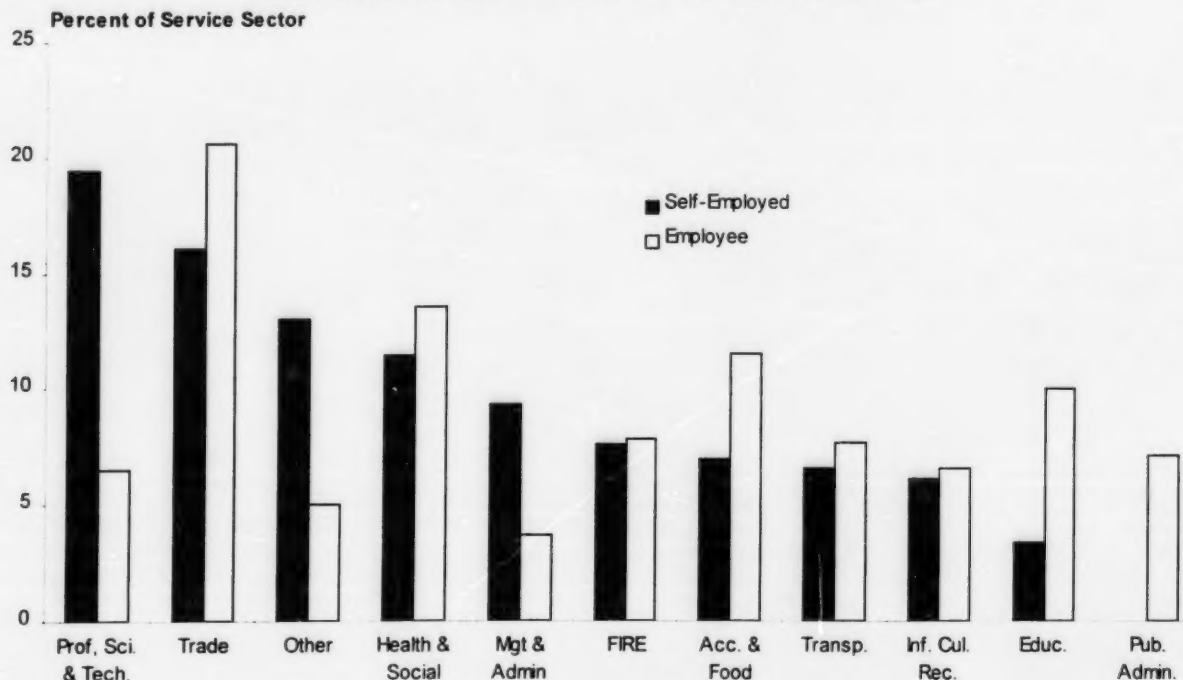
In the goods-producing sector there are also significant differences with 58 percent of self-employed workers with no employees occupied in construction. For those with employees, manufacturing is the largest classification at 40 percent of the goods-producing sector, and construction is second with 33 percent.

It is not all that surprising that the large majority of self-employed people work in service industries, for this is also true of employees (79 percent in service industries). How-

ever, the distribution within the service and goods-producing sectors are quite different as can be seen in the chart below.

Most of the differences between the distribution of self-employed and employee workers by industry are due to the nature of the job. The professional, scientific and technical classification includes many professions for which self-employment is an option, whereas public administration does not. In addition, certain occupations require more of a capital investment than others, and are therefore not as amenable to self-employment.

Employment by Industry in the Service Sector



Feature Articles Listed By Issue Number

00-2: 'Latest Small Business Employment Numbers Show Three Year Changes' (released Jan. 2001)

00-1: 'Some Distinctive Features of The Small Business Workplace' (released Oct. 2000)

99-4: 'Transfers of Corporate Charters to Other Provinces Suggest Business Migration From British Columbia' (released July 2000)

99-3: '755 Thousand British Columbians Rely On Small Businesses For Jobs' (released Mar 00)

99-2: 'A Quarter of All Employees In British Columbia Work For Small Employers' (released Nov 99)

99-1: 'Self-Employment In British Columbia Takes On New Profile' (released Sep 99)

98-4: 'Co-Operative Movement Grows Through the 1990s' (released Apr 99)

98-3: 'The Long and the Short of Working Hours For Self-Employed' (released Dec98)

98-2: 'People Trying Self-Employment As A Second Job' (released Aug 98)

98-1: 'British Columbians Still Making Their Own Jobs' (released May 98)

97-4: 'Business Bankruptcies Ease With Low Interest Rates, But Consumer Bankruptcies Continue to Climb' (released Mar 98)

97-3: 'Co-operative Movement Grows Steadily In British Columbia' (released Jan 98)

97-2: 'Doing Our Thing In Lotusland - The New Self-Employed In British Columbia' (released Sep 97)

97-1: 'Immigrants Boost Self-Employment In British Columbia' (released Aug 97)

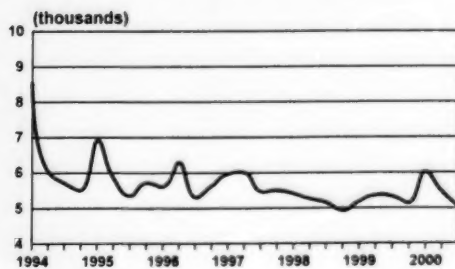
96-3: 'Changes in Business Confidence Expressed In Numbers of New Incorporations' (released Mar 97)

96-2: 'Bankruptcies Rise With Self-Employment and Mounting Consumer Debt Loads' (released Oct 96)

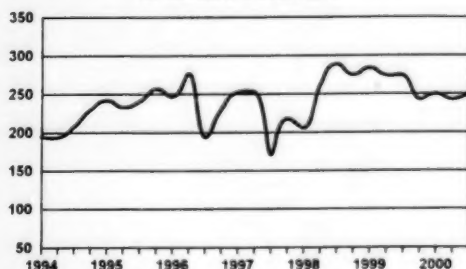
96-1: 'Counting the Business Community in British Columbia' (released Jul 96)

Business Counts, Formations and Failures

New Business Incorporations
in British Columbia



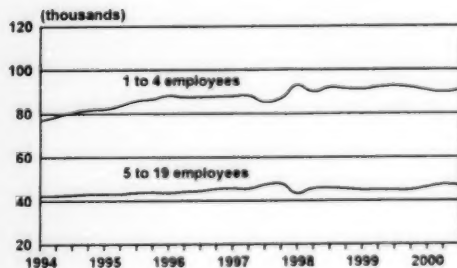
Number of Business Bankruptcies
in British Columbia



Self-Employed Persons



Small Businesses With Employees

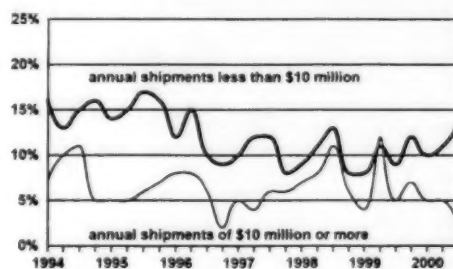


Business Conditions

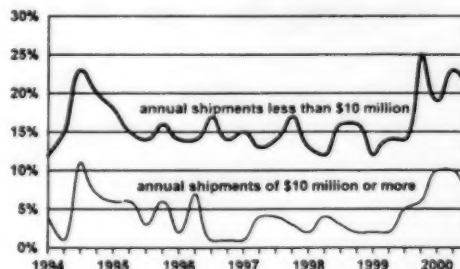
Balance of Opinion on New Orders
Received at Start of Quarter



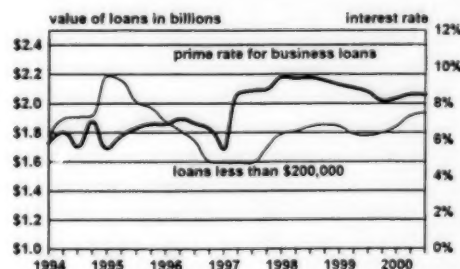
Per Cent of Manufacturers
Experiencing Shortage of Working Capital



Per Cent of Manufacturers
Experiencing Shortage of Skilled Labour



Chartered Bank Business Loans
in British Columbia



SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 1

Active Employer Businesses ⁽¹⁾					Employment ⁽²⁾				Self-employed ⁽³⁾		
by number of employees					by number of employees in business				paid help		
Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	Total	1-19	20-49	50+	Total *	with	without

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Annual Averages

1992	127.5	79.2	22.5	13.5	8.2	-	-	-	-	279	121	153
1993	131.5	75.3	24.7	16.6	10.2	1,303.8	394.1	137.4	772.3	301	135	160
1994	137.6	79.5	25.3	17.4	10.6	1,329.0	393.4	161.3	774.4	303	130	168
1995	143.7	84.7	26.0	17.6	10.7	1,377.7	400.1	171.0	806.6	302	127	170
1996	148.2	87.9	26.5	18.1	10.8	1,405.0	392.2	176.2	836.6	321	127	189
1997	150.9	87.4	27.2	18.9	11.2	1,437.4	385.0	184.0	868.4	359	129	223
1998	153.7	91.6	26.9	18.2	11.5	1,450.2	386.9	180.4	882.9	389	124	258
1999	154.6	92.0	26.8	18.2	11.9	1,457.4	377.9	179.5	900.0	393	133	255

% change from:

previous year

0.6%	0.4%	-0.4%	-0.2%	4.3%	0.5%	-2.3%	-0.5%	1.9%	1.0%	7.2%	-1.3%
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End of Quarter

Quarterly Averages

1997 Q1	149.7	88.1	27.1	18.6	10.9	1,396.1	374.0	171.7	850.4	333	122	211
Q2	149.9	88.3	27.1	18.5	10.9	1,450.3	388.2	186.0	876.1	358	130	228
Q3	150.6	85.4	27.6	19.8	12.3	1,456.9	390.7	194.3	871.9	364	133	231
Q4	153.3	86.9	28.1	19.9	12.7	1,454.4	391.1	180.5	882.8	370	131	235
1998 Q1	152.7	93.0	26.0	17.4	11.0	1,424.4	369.3	172.1	883.0	370	122	243
Q2	153.1	90.1	27.2	18.5	11.8	1,457.1	392.5	178.7	886.0	390	120	260
Q3	154.7	92.0	27.3	18.6	11.5	1,461.9	404.0	190.6	867.3	400	126	268
Q4	154.0	91.5	27.1	18.5	11.5	1,457.5	381.9	180.4	895.2	395	127	263
1999 Q1	153.5	91.2	26.8	18.2	11.7	1,425.8	361.1	174.3	890.4	395	126	265
Q2	154.6	92.2	26.8	18.2	11.8	1,461.5	381.3	181.5	898.7	400	132	263
Q3	155.2	92.6	26.7	18.2	12.1	1,463.5	385.7	186.2	891.6	392	140	246
Q4	154.9	92.0	26.8	18.2	12.2	1,478.6	383.3	176.0	919.3	384	132	245
2000 Q1	155.4	90.6	27.4	18.9	12.6	1,467.8	369.2	177.0	921.6	393	125	263
Q2	156.6	89.8	27.8	19.6	13.3	1,475.6	385.6	183.1	906.9	388	138	244
Q3	157.2	90.9	27.6	19.5	13.1	1,467.8	376.4	174.5	917.0	385	127	252

% change from:

previous Q

same Q last year

0.4%	1.2%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-0.5%	-2.4%	-4.7%	1.1%	-0.7%	-7.7%	3.4%
1.3%	-1.8%	3.2%	7.1%	9.0%	0.3%	-2.4%	-6.3%	2.8%	-1.8%	-9.5%	2.3%

Monthly

Jul-99	1,455.5	388.3	188.6	878.6	397	143	251
Aug-99	1,452.9	384.9	186.8	881.2	395	140	248
Sep-99	1,482.2	384.0	183.2	915.0	384	138	239
Oct-99	1,491.6	387.8	179.2	924.6	385	135	244
Nov-99	1,475.4	382.0	173.4	920.0	381	134	240
Dec-99	1,468.9	379.9	175.6	913.4	385	127	253
Jan-00	1,459.2	367.2	174.5	917.5	390	120	263
Feb-00	1,460.0	368.4	176.7	914.9	396	125	267
Mar-00	1,484.1	372.1	179.8	932.3	392	129	258
Apr-00	1,507.1	375.8	185.8	945.5	371	126	239
May-00	1,520.9	381.3	185.1	954.6	360	122	232
Jun-00	1,544.6	384.4	196.6	963.6	351	121	220
Jul-00	1,519.8	389.5	197.8	932.6	350	116	225
Aug-00	1,514.1	388.5	196.0	929.6	362	122	232
Sep-00	1,545.5	386.4	196.0	963.0	363	117	241

% change from:

previous month

same month last year

2.1%	-0.5%	0.0%	3.6%	0.2%	-4.6%	3.9%
4.3%	0.6%	7.0%	5.3%	-5.6%	-15.6%	1.0%

NOTES:

* Total self-employed includes persons working in family business without pay.

(1) Source: Business Register

(2) Source: Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours

(3) Source: Labour Force Survey

Source: Statistics Canada:

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BC STATS (387-0376)

SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 2

Business Formation Indicators			Bankruptcies	
New BC Business Incorporations	Registrations Extraprovincial Companies (number)	Registrations Unincorporated Businesses	Business	Consumer
			(number)	

Annual Totals

1993	15,106	1,225	7,615	1,284	0
1994	25,774	1,915	18,293	827	4,197
1995	23,846	1,966	19,279	973	4,747
1996	22,848	2,061	20,367	948	6,436
1997	22,958	2,188	19,863	895	7,366
1998	22,698	2,165	19,614	877	7,244
1999	22,799	2,198	19,903	867	7,197
% change from:					
previous year	0.4%	1.5%	1.5%	-1.1%	-0.6%

Quarterly Totals

1998 Q1	5,412	632	4,668	206	1,663
Q2	5,270	584	5,907	261	2,107
Q3	5,154	525	4,749	289	1,752
Q4	4,923	492	4,183	275	1,805
1999 Q1	5,188	578	5,015	284	2,024
Q2	5,362	637	5,612	274	2,138
Q3	5,322	556	5,093	274	1,919
Q4	5,137	595	5,197	243	2,098
2000 Q1	6,011	651	5,626	250	2,354
Q2	5,471	680	5,590	243	2,350
Q3	5,044	578	5,026	251	2,216
% change from:					
previous Q	-7.8%	-15.0%	-10.1%	3.3%	-5.7%
same Q last year	-5.2%	4.0%	-1.3%	-8.4%	15.5%

Monthly

Jul-99	1,914	215	1,565	108	597
Aug-99	1,631	177	1,815	80	606
Sep-99	1,777	164	1,713	86	716
Oct-99	1,520	171	1,954	77	724
Nov-99	1,843	205	1,857	95	740
Dec-99	1,774	219	1,386	71	634
Jan-00	1,859	193	1,497	69	729
Feb-00	1,921	217	1,399	72	775
Mar-00	2,231	241	2,730	109	850
Apr-00	1,513	204	1,386	70	689
May-00	2,078	258	2,273	100	779
Jun-00	1,880	218	1,931	73	882
Jul-00	1,582	188	1,575	89	733
Aug-00	1,787	193	1,527	89	771
Sep-00	1,675	197	1,924	73	712
% change from:					
previous month	-6.3%	2.1%	26.0%	-18.0%	-7.7%
same month last year	-5.7%	20.1%	12.3%	-15.1%	-0.6%

Sources: BC Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, Industry Canada.

BC STATS (387-0376)

SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 3

	Interest Rates			Exchange Rate	Consumer Price Index		
	Bank Rate	Prime Rate (per cent)	Conventional 5 Year Mortgage	Canadian \$ Average Noon Spot Rate (U.S.\$)	B.C.	Vancouver	Victoria
1992=100							
Annual Averages							
1995	8.42	9.52	11.06	74.38	80.3	80.3	80.4
1996	9.09	10.29	11.54	79.56	83.2	83.1	83.5
1997	3.52	4.96	7.07	72.24	109.7	109.8	109.7
1998	5.10	6.60	6.93	67.48	110.0	110.4	110.0
1999	4.92	6.44	7.56	67.32	111.2	111.4	111.1
difference from:							
previous year	-0.19	-0.17	0.63	N/A		N/A	
% change from:							
previous year		N/A		-0.2%	1.1%	0.9%	1.0%
Quarterly Averages							
1998 Q1	4.83	6.33	6.85	69.92	109.7	110.0	109.8
Q2	5.00	6.50	6.95	69.13	110.2	110.6	110.2
Q3	5.25	6.75	7.08	66.03	110.3	110.6	110.1
Q4	5.33	6.83	6.83	64.84	109.9	110.2	109.9
1999 Q1	5.17	6.75	6.92	66.17	110.1	110.3	110.0
Q2	4.83	6.33	7.32	67.90	111.2	111.4	111.1
Q3	4.75	6.25	7.75	67.30	112.0	112.1	111.9
Q4	4.92	6.42	8.25	67.90	111.6	111.8	111.5
2000 Q1	5.25	6.75	8.48	68.80	111.7	112.1	111.5
Q2	5.83	7.33	8.52	67.56	112.8	113.3	112.7
Q3	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.47	114.2	115.0	113.7
difference from:							
previous Q	0.17	0.17	-0.27	N/A		N/A	
same Q last year	1.25	1.25	0.50				
% change from:							
previous Q		N/A		-0.1%	1.2%	1.4%	0.9%
same Q last year				0.3%	2.0%	2.6%	1.6%
Monthly							
Sep-99	4.75	6.25	7.70	67.71	112.2	112.4	112.0
Oct-99	4.75	6.25	8.25	67.69	111.8	111.9	111.7
Nov-99	5.00	6.50	8.25	68.15	111.5	111.7	111.4
Dec-99	5.00	6.50	8.25	67.88	111.6	111.8	111.5
Jan-00	5.00	6.50	8.55	69.02	111.3	111.6	111.1
Feb-00	5.25	6.75	8.55	68.91	111.4	111.8	111.3
Mar-00	5.50	7.00	8.35	68.47	112.3	112.8	112.2
Apr-00	5.50	7.00	8.35	68.10	112.4	112.9	112.3
May-00	6.00	7.50	8.75	66.87	112.8	113.3	112.7
Jun-00	6.00	7.50	8.45	67.71	113.2	113.8	113.1
Jul-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.67	114.2	114.9	113.7
Aug-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.46	114.1	114.9	113.6
Sep-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.29	114.3	115.1	113.9
difference from:							
previous month	0.00	0.00	0.00	N/A		N/A	
same month last year	1.25	1.25	0.55				
% change from:							
previous month		N/A		-0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
same month last year				-0.6%	1.9%	2.4%	1.7%

Sources: Bank of Canada, Statistics Canada.

BC STATS (387-0376)

SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 4

	Commercial Building Permits			Industrial Building Permits			Urban Housing Starts	
	B.C.	Vancouver (\$,000)	Victoria	B.C.	Vancouver (\$,000)	Victoria	B.C.	Vancouver
Annual Totals								
1993	557,405	404,840	39,316	161,713	91,859	14,166	38,173	21,307
1994	577,818	410,694	55,906	109,107	58,125	13,542	34,619	20,473
1995	1,026,994	595,457	57,744	249,688	108,665	10,626	23,604	14,992
1996	1,225,837	675,541	88,661	252,646	151,875	5,499	24,744	15,453
1997	1,358,450	849,207	78,280	285,814	163,773	6,777	25,210	15,950
1998	1,311,124	810,117	76,173	273,279	160,652	15,858	17,631	11,878
1999	1,142,105	652,159	101,453	319,145	172,604	5,931	14,176	8,677
% change from:								
previous year	-12.9%	-19.5%	33.2%	16.8%	7.4%	-62.6%	-19.6%	-26.9%
Quarterly Totals								
1998 Q1	242,540	170,981	12,321	66,397	47,375	6,817	4,067	2,880
Q2	345,884	189,811	36,755	57,163	27,264	4,232	4,957	3,318
Q3	416,912	261,252	13,048	97,057	60,509	1,566	5,291	3,489
Q4	305,788	188,073	14,049	52,662	25,504	3,243	3,316	2,191
1999 Q1	226,757	135,329	25,624	41,266	17,534	3,190	2,709	1,951
Q2	311,707	170,971	19,066	103,901	71,354	789	3,507	1,861
Q3	311,474	193,701	21,393	109,850	62,438	479	4,148	2,497
Q4	292,167	152,158	35,370	64,128	21,278	1,473	3,812	2,368
2000 Q1	310,172	243,234	10,966	60,084	20,194	1,258	2,219	1,527
Q2	363,163	205,899	30,805	83,816	44,182	6,223	3,559	2,468
Q3	336,460	218,441	17,911	78,563	41,930	364	3,310	1,989
% change from:								
previous Q	-7.4%	6.1%	-41.9%	-6.3%	-5.1%	-94.2%	-7.0%	-19.4%
same Q last year	8.0%	12.8%	-16.3%	-28.5%	-32.8%	-24.0%	-20.2%	-20.3%
Monthly								
Apr-99	105,862	50,369	3,715	19,179	10,429	160	970	468
May-99	102,282	64,898	2,451	31,869	18,320	56	1,368	772
Jun-99	103,563	55,704	12,900	52,853	42,605	573	1,169	621
Jul-99	108,298	66,820	7,326	39,062	15,300	76	1,424	857
Aug-99	118,903	75,091	5,700	35,572	27,339	83	1,321	799
Sep-99	84,273	51,790	8,367	35,216	19,799	320	1,403	841
Oct-99	75,265	32,384	10,416	20,347	6,173	312	1,094	592
Nov-99	112,176	70,353	4,128	27,040	4,775	910	1,450	808
Dec-99	104,726	49,421	20,826	16,741	10,330	251	1,268	968
Jan-00	173,965	153,746	4,586	24,730	9,418	526	525	330
Feb-00	46,093	26,196	3,035	22,578	7,287	226	992	752
Mar-00	90,114	63,292	3,345	12,776	3,489	506	702	445
Apr-00	116,772	56,965	13,559	17,761	7,955	385	1,193	856
May-00	119,429	64,015	11,797	26,484	9,156	5,679	1,264	965
Jun-00	126,962	84,919	5,449	39,571	27,071	159	1,102	647
Jul-00	99,500	68,368	6,626	28,394	16,362	176	1,125	608
Aug-00	109,883	55,251	9,706	26,204	15,057	93	867	555
Sep-00	127,077	94,822	1,579	23,965	10,511	95	1,318	826
% change from:								
previous month	15.6%	71.6%	-83.7%	-8.5%	-30.2%	2.2%	52.0%	48.8%
same month last year	50.8%	83.1%	-81.1%	-31.9%	-46.9%	-70.3%	-6.1%	-1.8%

Sources: Canada Mortgage and Housing, Statistics Canada.
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BC STATS (387-0376)

SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 5

Chartered Bank Business Loans in British Columbia			
Less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	Greater than \$500,000	Total
(\$,000,000)			

Annual Averages

1992	2,222	698	6,545	9,464
1993	1,858	688	5,615	8,160
1994	1,802	658	4,732	7,191
1995	1,791	1,451	9,043	12,284
1996	1,861	1,508	9,162	12,530
1997	1,985	1,724	10,081	13,790
1998	2,172	1,825	11,077	15,074
1999	2,084	1,710	10,807	14,601
% change from: previous year	-4.1%	-6.3%	-2.4%	-3.1%

Quarterly

1993 Q1	1,439	985	10,056	12,480
Q2	1,336	993	8,954	11,283
Q3	1,543	1,001	8,607	11,151
Q4	1,603	1,032	7,971	10,606
1994 Q1	1,729	1,106	8,518	11,353
Q2	1,803	1,183	8,444	11,430
Q3	1,704	1,298	8,938	11,940
Q4	1,878	1,301	8,303	11,482
1995 Q1	1,694	1,413	9,268	12,375
Q2	1,779	1,457	9,047	12,283
Q3	1,832	1,462	9,020	12,314
Q4	1,859	1,471	8,835	12,165
1996 Q1	1,860	1,487	8,988	12,335
Q2	1,893	1,512	9,094	12,499
Q3	1,864	1,501	9,252	12,617
Q4	1,825	1,533	9,312	12,670
1997 Q1	1,686	1,534	9,853	13,073
Q2	2,068	1,751	9,751	13,570
Q3	2,088	1,770	10,337	14,195
Q4	2,098	1,841	10,384	14,323
1998 Q1	2,180	1,842	11,115	15,137
Q2	2,174	1,842	11,338	15,354
Q3	2,178	1,816	11,104	15,098
Q4	2,157	1,801	10,750	14,708
1999 Q1	2,128	1,792	10,908	14,828
Q2	2,108	1,735	10,975	14,818
Q3	2,080	1,686	10,876	14,642
Q4	2,020	1,627	10,467	14,114
2000 Q1	2,035	1,631	10,636	14,302
Q2	2,063	1,638	10,812	14,513
Q3	2,059	1,586	10,608	14,253
% change from: previous Q	-0.2%	-3.2%	-1.9%	-1.8%
same Q last year	-1.0%	-5.9%	-2.5%	-2.7%

Source: Bank of Canada.

BC STATS (387-0376)

Manufacturers' Outlook for Business Conditions
Companies With Annual Shipments Less Than \$10 million

Note: These data are gathered from the *Business Conditions Survey*, which is conducted quarterly in Jan., April, July and October. Most responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Manufacturers with more employees have a correspondingly larger impact on the results.

Balance of Opinion at the Beginning of Quarter * (net of positive & negative percentages)			Percent of Manufacturers Experiencing Production Difficulties From:		
Inventory Levels High or Low	Orders Rising or Falling (index)	Anticipated Production This Quarter	Working Capital Shortage	Skilled Labour Shortage (%)	Unskilled Labour Shortage

Annual Averages

1992	12	-11	-6	14	10	1
1993	7	2	3	17	13	1
1994	9	16	13	15	18	1
1995	9	2	4	16	16	2
1996	4	-6	-2	12	15	1
1997	3	6	4	11	15	2
1998	7	-15	-9	10	14	1
1999	6	-4	7	10	16	1

Quarterly

1995 Q1	6	3	-7	14	18	1
Q2	7	14	36	15	15	2
Q3	9	-4	-2	17	14	2
Q4	12	-4	-11	16	16	2
1996 Q1	3	-21	-21	12	14	2
Q2	10	-6	15	15	14	0
Q3	1	-1	6	10	17	1
Q4	1	5	-9	9	14	2
1997 Q1	0	-9	-10	10	15	2
Q2	0	9	25	12	13	1
Q3	8	16	13	12	14	1
Q4	4	7	-11	8	17	3
1998 Q1	6	1	-9	9	13	0
Q2	6	-12	18	11	12	1
Q3	9	-22	-15	13	16	0
Q4	8	-25	-29	8	16	3
1999 Q1	6	-32	-20	8	12	2
Q2	5	5	29	11	14	0
Q3	8	8	21	9	14	1
Q4	4	4	-3	12	25	2
2000 Q1	4	-1	-5	10	19	1
Q2	9	13	24	11	23	2
Q3	7	-6	7	14	19	2

* **Note:** For Inventory Levels, a positive balance indicates too much inventory, and is thus unfavourable.
 For New Orders and Production, a positive balance of opinion is favourable.

Source: Statistics Canada:

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BC STATS (387-0376)

Manufacturers' Outlook for Business Conditions
Companies With Annual Shipments of \$10 million or More

Note: These data are gathered from the *Business Conditions Survey*, which is conducted quarterly in Jan., April, July and October. Most responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Manufacturers with more employees have a correspondingly larger impact on the results.

Balance of Opinion at the Beginning of Quarter * (net of positive & negative percentages)			Percent of Manufacturers Experiencing Production Difficulties From:		
Inventory Levels High or Low	Orders Rising or Falling (index)	Anticipated Production This Quarter	Working Capital Shortage	Skilled Labour Shortage (%)	Unskilled Labour Shortage

Annual Averages

1992	25	-10	-7	19	2	0
1993	30	2	3	10	3	0
1994	18	12	6	8	6	0
1995	17	1	-1	6	5	0
1996	30	-7	-7	6	3	0
1997	29	0	4	5	3	0
1998	37	-26	-7	8	3	0
1999	18	3	6	7	4	0

Quarterly

1995 Q1	13	10	-10	5	6	0
Q2	14	8	11	5	6	0
Q3	17	-6	0	6	3	0
Q4	22	-8	-5	7	6	0
1996 Q1	37	-29	-12	8	2	0
Q2	33	-14	-3	8	7	0
Q3	29	10	-2	6	1	0
Q4	21	7	-10	2	1	0
1997 Q1	31	-6	-1	5	1	0
Q2	31	4	15	4	4	0
Q3	24	7	13	6	4	0
Q4	28	-4	-13	6	3	0
1998 Q1	42	-33	-22	7	2	0
Q2	34	-9	1	8	4	0
Q3	33	-33	-2	11	3	0
Q4	38	-30	-4	6	2	1
1999 Q1	25	-24	-4	4	2	0
Q2	22	2	8	12	2	0
Q3	14	23	18	5	5	0
Q4	11	12	0	7	6	0
2000 Q1	14	13	8	5	10	3
Q2	24	11	10	5	10	3
Q3	29	-12	2	1	2	0

* **Note:** For Inventory Levels, a positive balance indicates too much inventory, and is thus unfavourable.
 For New Orders and Production, a positive balance of opinion is favourable.

4TH QUARTER

4E TRIMESTRE

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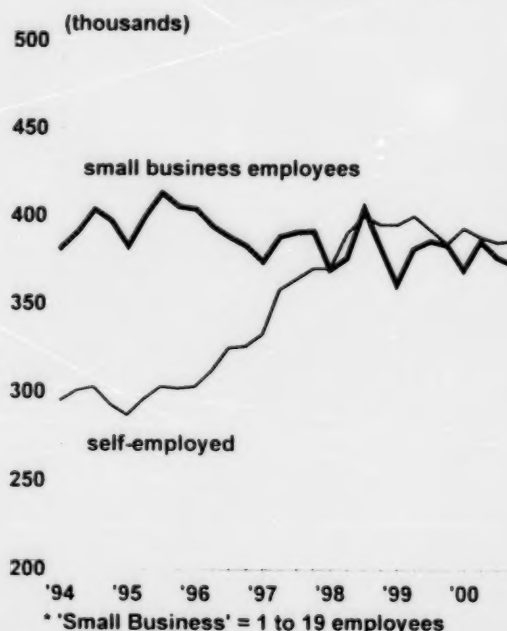
Small Business Quarterly ♦ Fourth Quarter 2000

- The number of self-employed in British Columbia fell 1.1 percent in 2000 compared to 1999. The largest component of the decline was the number of self-employed persons with employees of their own, which dropped 2.7 percent. Self-employed persons without paid help were also fewer in number, falling 0.7 percent.
- The number of small businesses in British Columbia (excluding self-employed persons) increased overall in 2000 despite a 1.6 percent drop in businesses with 1 to 4 employees. Businesses with 5 to 9 employees were up 2.9 percent and the number of businesses with 10 to 19 employees rose 5.7 percent. However, despite the increase in the number of small businesses, employment in those businesses showed a slight decline. Total employment grew by 1.1 percent driven entirely by those businesses employing 50 or more people (+2.1 percent).
- There was a 2.9 percent drop in the number of new business incorporations in the fourth quarter of 2000 compared to the same quarter in 1999, but over the entire year, there were 506 (+2.4 percent) more businesses incorporated than in 1999.
- The number of business bankruptcies in the province continued to drop (-4.5 percent) compared to the fourth quarter of 1999. From 1999 to 2000 there was a 9.2 percent decline in business bankruptcies. However, consumer bankruptcies continue to rise, jumping 7.8 percent

year-over-year in the fourth quarter, and up 12.3 percent for 2000. Consequently there is no clear indication from bankruptcy information of the climate that may be facing small businesses in the immediate future.

- The value of commercial building permits issued in British Columbia rose 13.6 percent in 2000; however, urban housing starts dropped 12.9 percent. The drop in construction activity is bad news for the small business sector since many construction firms and contractors are either small businesses or self-employed. However, the increase in the value of building permits may indicate that construction activity will be on the rise soon.

**Employees in B.C. Small Businesses, *
and Numbers of Self-Employed**



Co-operatives Grew Steadily Throughout the 1990s

There was steady growth throughout the last decade in the number of co-operatives registered in British Columbia. The number of non-financial co-operatives has risen 42 percent from 503 in 1990 to 716 in 1999.

A co-operative is an independent organisation of which the members share joint ownership. There are many kinds of co-operatives providing services ranging from housing, to financial services (through credit unions), to food retailing, to product marketing.

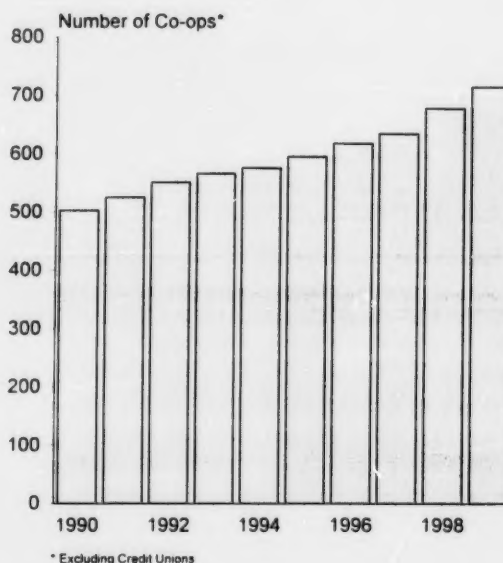
In 1995, seven principles were adopted to provide guidelines for co-operatives:¹

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information
- Co-operation among co-operatives
- Concern for community

The application of these principles is apparent when one examines existing co-operatives. Whether they are marketing co-ops designed to help small operators compete with the larger enterprises, or housing-co-ops organised to assist people by providing affordable housing, the principles of co-operation and community participation stand out. Many co-ops are involved in promoting environmental initiatives and ensuring their operations are environmentally sound. The Mountain Equipment Co-op, for example, contributes 0.4 percent of the previous year's gross sales to environmental preservation projects.

¹ Source: *Canadian Co-operatives Resource File 2000*, Co-operatives Secretariat, Government of Canada.

The Number of Co-operatives in BC
Continues to Expand



Types of Co-operatives

Although co-operatives can be established to operate virtually any type of business, in practise they are most often found where either the desired products are not available through private sector sources (for example, in remote rural areas), or where consumers feel there is insufficient market competition. An example of this kind of situation is where people living in a remote community set up their own general store as a co-operative.

Co-operatives are not limited to rural areas, however. An example of an urban-based co-operative is Mountain Equipment Co-op, which operates out of Vancouver. It has large retail outfits in several major urban centres across the country, and also does significant mail-order business.

BC Registered Co-operatives by Type

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change 1990-1999
Housing	285	300	310	319	321	330	337	339	342	349	22.5
Other Service	81	82	85	87	93	101	110	116	137	152	87.7
Consumer	46	47	50	50	50	50	52	55	58	58	26.1
Supply	8	9	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	12	50.0
Production	47	51	56	59	61	62	64	65	73	82	74.5
Marketing	36	36	40	40	40	41	44	49	58	63	75.0
Total Non-Financial	503	525	551	566	576	595	618	635	679	716	42.3
Credit Unions	111	108	106	103	101	100	100	96	86	78	-29.7

Although retail co-operatives such as Mountain Equipment Co-op have some of the largest memberships, housing co-operatives are the most numerous. Almost half of all non-financial co-operatives in British Columbia in 1999 were those providing housing services to their members. Co-operatives providing services other than housing are the second most numerous, and posted the largest growth in number from 1990 to 1999, increasing 88 percent from 81 to 152. These co-ops provide services such as childcare, community development, medical care, and a variety of other activities.

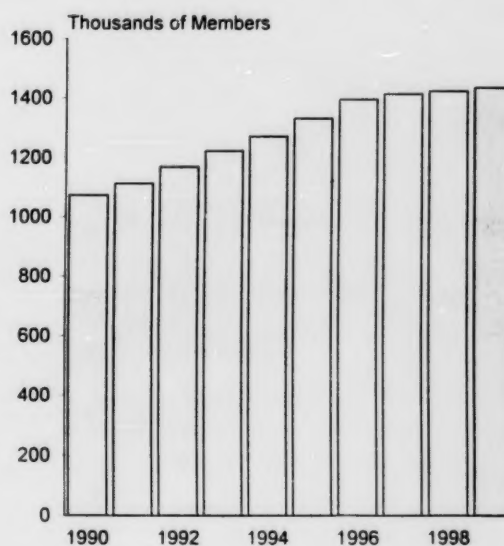
Marketing and Production co-operatives were the next fastest areas of growth. Marketing co-ops in British Columbia include dairy co-operatives like Island Farms in Victoria, fruit and vegetable co-ops like BC Fruit Packers in Kelowna as well as other agriculture-related ventures such as wholesale or retail operations selling livestock, grains and so on. Production co-ops are designed to carry out functions like agricultural feeder operations, handicraft production and wood processing.

Supply co-ops are responsible for distributing products ranging from agricultural supplies to petroleum products.

Financial co-operatives

The popularity of credit unions in British Columbia looks to have reached a plateau as membership as a percentage of population has levelled off at around 36 percent. The number of credit unions in the province has dropped 30 percent since 1990, but this is mainly due to mergers. Membership has continued to grow from 1.1 million members in 1990 to over 1.4 million in 1999.

Credit Union membership in BC has levelled off after rapid expansion earlier in the decade



Credit unions are particularly important for small communities that have no other financial outlets. In British Columbia, credit unions serve 125 communities, including 30 in which there are no other financial institutions. As the major banks continue to consider mergers, the number of communities served only by credit unions could increase. There could be another growth spurt in membership if the Canadian banking system becomes more streamlined than it is already. Consumer concern over "mega-banks" could help attract more people to credit unions.

Feature Articles Listed by Issue Number

00-3: 'Profile of Self-Employed in British Columbia' (released Mar. 2001)

00-2: 'Latest Small Business Employment Numbers Show Three Year Changes' (released Jan. 2001)

00-1: 'Some Distinctive Features of The Small Business Workplace' (released Oct. 2000)

99-4: 'Transfers of Corporate Charters to Other Provinces Suggest Business Migration From British Columbia' (released July 2000)

99-3: '755 Thousand British Columbians Rely On Small Businesses For Jobs' (released Mar 00)

99-2: 'A Quarter of All Employees In British Columbia Work For Small Employers' (released Nov 99)

99-1: 'Self-Employment In British Columbia Takes On New Profile' (released Sep 99)

98-4: 'Co-Operative Movement Grows Through the 1990s' (released Apr 99)

98-3: 'The Long and the Short of Working Hours For Self-Employed' (released Dec98)

98-2: 'People Trying Self-Employment As A Second Job' (released Aug 98)

98-1: 'British Columbians Still Making Their Own Jobs' (released May 98)

97-4: 'Business Bankruptcies Ease With Low Interest Rates, But Consumer Bankruptcies Continue to Climb' (released Mar 98)

97-3: 'Co-operative Movement Grows Steadily In British Columbia' (released Jan 98)

97-2: 'Doing Our Thing In Lotusland - The New Self-Employed In British Columbia' (released Sep 97)

97-1: 'Immigrants Boost Self-Employment In British Columbia' (released Aug 97)

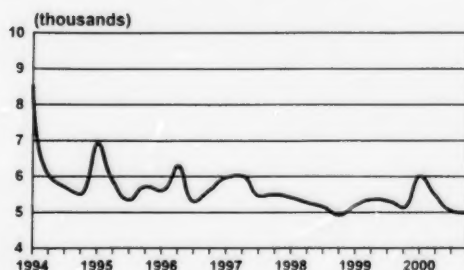
96-3: 'Changes in Business Confidence Expressed In Numbers of New Incorporations' (released Mar 97)

96-2: 'Bankruptcies Rise With Self-Employment and Mounting Consumer Debt Loads' (released Oct 96)

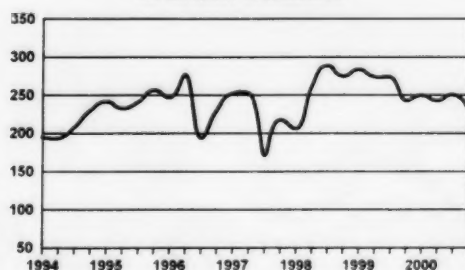
96-1: 'Counting the Business Community in British Columbia' (released Jul 96)

Business Counts, Formations and Failures

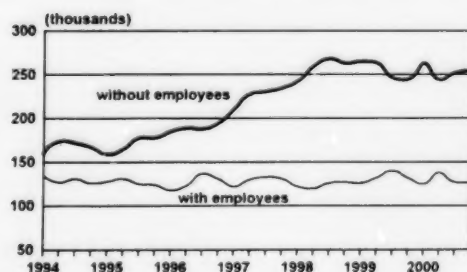
New Business Incorporations in British Columbia



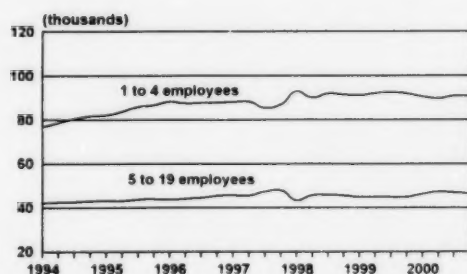
Number of Business Bankruptcies in British Columbia



Self-Employed Persons

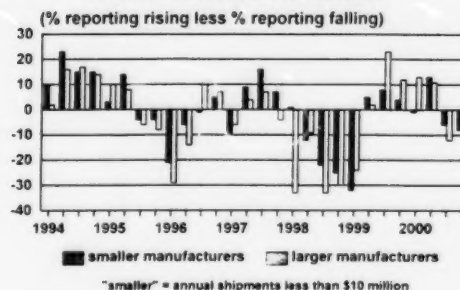


Small Businesses With Employees

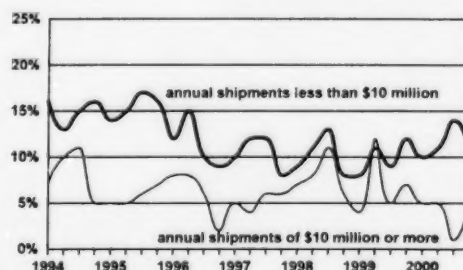


Business Conditions

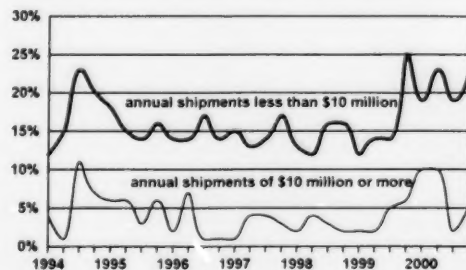
Balance of Opinion on New Orders Received at Start of Quarter



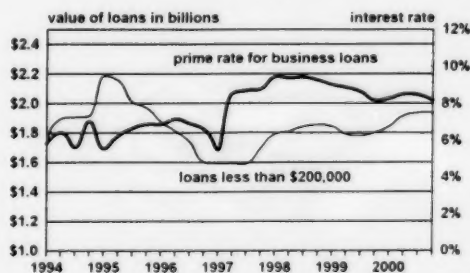
Per Cent of Manufacturers Experiencing Shortage of Working Capital



Per Cent of Manufacturers Experiencing Shortage of Skilled Labour



Chartered Bank Business Loans in British Columbia



SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 1

Active Employer Businesses ⁽¹⁾ by number of employees					Employment ⁽²⁾ by number of employees in business				Self-employed ⁽³⁾ paid help		
Total	1-4	5-9	10-19	20-49	Total	1-19	20-49	50+	Total *	with	without
('000)					('000)				('000)		

Annual Averages

1992	127.5	79.2	22.5	13.5	8.2	-	-	-	-	279	121	153
1993	131.5	75.3	24.7	16.6	10.2	1,303.8	394.1	137.4	772.3	301	135	160
1994	137.6	79.5	25.3	17.4	10.6	1,329.0	393.4	161.3	774.4	303	130	168
1995	143.7	84.7	26.0	17.6	10.7	1,377.7	400.1	171.0	806.6	302	127	170
1996	148.2	87.9	26.5	18.1	10.8	1,405.0	392.2	176.2	836.6	321	127	189
1997	150.9	87.4	27.2	18.9	11.2	1,437.4	385.0	184.0	868.4	359	129	223
1998	153.7	91.6	26.9	18.2	11.5	1,450.2	386.9	180.4	882.9	389	124	258
1999	154.6	92.0	26.8	18.2	11.9	1,457.4	377.9	179.5	900.0	393	133	255
2000	156.6	90.5	27.5	19.3	13.0	1,473.7	375.8	178.8	919.1	388	129	253
% change from: previous year	1.3%	-1.6%	2.9%	5.7%	8.7%	1.1%	-0.5%	-0.4%	2.1%	-1.1%	-2.7%	-0.7%

End of Quarter

Quarterly Averages

1998 Q1	152.7	93.0	26.0	17.4	11.0	1,424.4	369.3	172.1	883.0	370	122	243
Q2	153.1	90.1	27.2	18.5	11.8	1,457.1	392.5	178.7	886.0	390	120	260
Q3	154.7	92.0	27.3	18.6	11.5	1,461.9	404.0	190.6	867.3	400	126	268
Q4	154.0	91.5	27.1	18.5	11.5	1,457.5	381.9	180.4	895.2	395	127	263
1999 Q1	153.5	91.2	26.8	18.2	11.7	1,425.8	361.1	174.3	890.4	395	126	265
Q2	154.6	92.2	26.8	18.2	11.8	1,461.5	381.3	181.5	898.7	400	132	263
Q3	155.2	92.6	26.7	18.2	12.1	1,463.5	385.7	186.2	891.6	392	140	246
Q4	154.9	92.0	26.8	18.2	12.2	1,478.6	383.3	176.0	919.3	384	132	245
2000 Q1	155.4	90.6	27.4	18.9	12.6	1,467.8	369.2	177.0	921.6	393	125	263
Q2	156.6	89.8	27.8	19.6	13.3	1,475.6	385.6	183.1	906.9	388	138	244
Q3	157.2	90.9	27.6	19.5	13.1	1,467.8	376.4	174.5	917.0	385	127	252
Q4	157.4	90.8	27.4	19.1	12.9	1,483.8	372.1	180.8	930.9	386	127	255
% change from: previous Q	0.1%	-0.1%	-0.6%	-2.1%	-2.0%	1.1%	-1.1%	3.6%	1.5%	0.2%	-0.3%	1.2%
same Q last year	1.6%	-1.4%	2.2%	4.8%	6.0%	0.3%	-2.9%	2.7%	1.3%	0.7%	-4.0%	3.8%

Monthly

NOTES:

* Total self-employed includes persons working in family business without pay.

(1) Source: Business Register

(2) Source: Survey of Employment, Payroll and Hours

(3) Source: Labour Force Survey

Jul-99	1,455.5	388.3	188.6	878.6	397	143	251
Aug-99	1,452.9	384.9	186.8	881.2	395	140	248
Sep-99	1,482.2	384.0	183.2	915.0	384	138	239
Oct-99	1,491.6	387.8	179.2	924.6	385	135	244
Nov-99	1,475.4	382.0	173.4	920.0	381	134	240
Dec-99	1,468.9	379.9	175.6	913.4	385	127	253
Jan-00	1,459.2	367.2	174.5	917.5	390	120	263
Feb-00	1,460.0	368.4	176.7	914.9	396	125	267
Mar-00	1,484.1	372.1	179.8	932.3	392	129	258
Apr-00	1,507.1	375.8	185.8	945.5	371	126	239
May-00	1,520.9	381.3	185.1	954.6	360	122	232
Jun-00	1,544.6	384.4	196.6	963.6	351	121	220
Jul-00	1,519.8	389.5	197.8	932.6	350	116	225
Aug-00	1,514.1	388.5	196.0	929.6	362	122	232
Sep-00	1,545.5	386.4	196.0	963.0	363	117	241
Oct-00	1,552.3	383.9	193.7	974.8	355	121	230
Nov-00	1,544.2	377.7	191.7	974.8	346	119	222
Dec-00	1,535.0	379.1	189.2	966.8	358	113	242
% change from: previous month	-0.6%	0.4%	-1.3%	-0.8%	3.7%	-4.5%	8.7%
same month last year	4.5%	-0.2%	7.8%	5.8%	-6.8%	-10.6%	-4.5%

Source: Statistics Canada:

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SMALL BUSINESS QUARTERLY

TABLE 2

<u>Business Formation Indicators</u>			<u>Bankruptcies</u>		
New BC Business Incorporations	Registrations Extraprovincial Companies (number)	Registrations Unincorporated Businesses	Business	Consumer	
			(number)		
Annual Totals					
1994	25,774	1,915	18,293	827	4,197
1995	23,846	1,966	19,279	973	4,747
1996	22,848	2,061	20,367	948	6,436
1997	22,958	2,188	19,863	895	7,366
1998	20,759	2,233	19,507	1,031	7,327
1999	21,009	2,366	20,917	1,075	8,179
2000	21,515	2,528	20,822	976	9,181
% change from:					
previous year	2.4%	6.8%	-0.5%	-9.2%	12.3%

Quarterly Totals					
1998 Q1	5,412	632	4,668	206	1,663
Q2	5,270	584	5,907	261	2,107
Q3	5,154	525	4,749	289	1,752
Q4	4,923	492	4,183	275	1,805
1999 Q1	5,188	578	5,015	284	2,024
Q2	5,362	637	5,612	274	2,138
Q3	5,322	556	5,093	274	1,919
Q4	5,137	595	5,197	243	2,098
2000 Q1	6,011	651	5,626	250	2,354
Q2	5,471	680	5,590	243	2,350
Q3	5,044	578	5,026	251	2,216
Q4	4,989	619	4,580	232	2,261
% change from:					
previous Q	-1.1%	7.1%	-8.9%	-7.6%	2.0%
same Q last year	-2.9%	4.0%	-11.9%	-4.5%	7.8%

Monthly					
Oct-99	1,520	171	1,954	77	724
Nov-99	1,843	205	1,857	95	740
Dec-99	1,774	219	1,386	71	634
Jan-00	1,859	193	1,497	69	729
Feb-00	1,921	217	1,399	72	775
Mar-00	2,231	241	2,730	109	850
Apr-00	1,513	204	1,386	70	689
May-00	2,078	258	2,273	100	779
Jun-00	1,880	218	1,931	73	882
Jul-00	1,582	188	1,575	89	733
Aug-00	1,787	193	1,527	89	771
Sep-00	1,675	197	1,924	73	712
Oct-00	1,709	234	1,755	85	858
Nov-00	1,682	219	1,444	93	822
Dec-00	1,598	166	1,381	54	581
% change from:					
previous month	-5.0%	-24.2%	-4.4%	-41.9%	-29.3%
same month last year	-9.9%	-24.2%	-0.4%	-23.9%	-8.4%

Sources: BC Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations, Industry Canada.

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TABLE 3

<u>Interest Rates</u>				<u>Exchange Rate</u>	<u>Consumer Price Index</u>		
Bank Rate	Prime Rate (per cent)	Conventional 5 Year Mortgage		Canadian \$ Average Noon Spot Rate (U.S.\$)	B.C.	Vancouver	Victoria
1992=100							
Annual Averages							
1995	8.42	9.52	11.06	74.38	80.3	80.3	80.4
1996	9.09	10.29	11.54	79.56	83.2	83.1	83.5
1997	3.52	4.96	7.07	72.24	109.7	109.8	109.7
1998	5.10	6.60	6.93	67.48	110.0	110.4	110.0
1999	4.92	6.44	7.56	67.32	111.2	111.4	111.1
2000	5.77	7.27	8.35	67.34	113.3	113.9	113.0
difference from:							
previous year	0.85	0.83	0.79	N/A	N/A		
% change from:							
previous year	N/A			0.0%	1.8%	2.2%	1.7%
Quarterly Averages							
1998 Q1	4.83	6.33	6.85	69.92	109.7	110.0	109.8
Q2	5.00	6.50	6.95	69.13	110.2	110.6	110.2
Q3	5.25	6.75	7.08	66.03	110.3	110.6	110.1
Q4	5.33	6.83	6.83	64.84	109.9	110.2	109.9
1999 Q1	5.17	6.75	6.92	66.17	110.1	110.3	110.0
Q2	4.83	6.33	7.32	67.90	111.2	111.4	111.1
Q3	4.75	6.25	7.75	67.30	112.0	112.1	111.9
Q4	4.92	6.42	8.25	67.90	111.6	111.8	111.5
2000 Q1	5.25	6.75	8.48	68.80	111.7	112.1	111.5
Q2	5.83	7.33	8.52	67.56	112.8	113.3	112.7
Q3	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.47	114.2	115.0	113.7
Q4	6.00	7.50	8.15	65.55	114.4	115.1	114.0
difference from:							
previous Q	0.00	0.00	-0.10	N/A	N/A		
same Q last year	1.08	1.08	-0.10				
% change from:							
previous Q	N/A			-2.8%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
same Q last year				-3.5%	2.5%	3.0%	2.2%
Monthly							
Nov-99	5.00	6.50	8.25	68.15	111.5	111.7	111.4
Dec-99	5.00	6.50	8.25	67.88	111.6	111.8	111.5
Jan-00	5.00	6.50	8.55	69.02	111.3	111.6	111.1
Feb-00	5.25	6.75	8.55	68.91	111.4	111.8	111.3
Mar-00	5.50	7.00	8.35	68.47	112.3	112.8	112.2
Apr-00	5.50	7.00	8.35	68.10	112.4	112.9	112.3
May-00	6.00	7.50	8.75	66.87	112.8	113.3	112.7
Jun-00	6.00	7.50	8.45	67.71	113.2	113.8	113.1
Jul-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.67	114.2	114.9	113.7
Aug-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.46	114.1	114.9	113.6
Sep-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	67.29	114.3	115.1	113.9
Oct-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	66.12	114.5	115.1	114.0
Nov-00	6.00	7.50	8.25	64.84	114.5	115.2	114.1
Dec-00	6.00	7.50	7.95	65.68	114.3	115.0	113.9
difference from:							
previous month	0.00	0.00	-0.30	N/A	N/A		
the month last year	1.00	1.00	-0.30				
% change from:							
previous month	N/A			1.3%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-0.2%
the month last year				-3.2%	2.4%	2.9%	2.2%

Sources: Bank of Canada, Statistics Canada.

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TABLE 4

	Commercial Building Permits			Industrial Building Permits			Urban Housing Starts	
	B.C.	Vancouver	Victoria	B.C.	Vancouver	Victoria	B.C.	Vancouver
	(\$,000)			(\$,000)				
Annual Totals								
1993	557,405	404,840	39,316	161,713	91,859	14,166	38,173	21,307
1994	577,818	410,694	55,906	109,107	58,125	13,542	34,619	20,473
1995	1,026,994	595,457	57,744	249,688	108,665	10,626	23,604	14,992
1996	1,225,837	675,541	88,661	252,646	151,875	5,499	24,744	15,453
1997	1,358,450	849,207	78,280	285,814	163,773	6,777	25,210	15,950
1998	1,311,124	810,117	76,173	273,279	160,652	15,858	17,631	11,878
1999	1,142,105	652,159	101,453	319,145	172,604	5,931	14,176	8,677
2000	1,297,270	868,865	76,834	295,525	147,574	14,763	12,353	8,203
% change from:								
previous year	13.6%	33.2%	-24.3%	-7.4%	-14.5%	148.9%	-12.9%	-5.5%
Quarterly Totals								
1998 Q1	242,540	170,981	12,321	66,397	47,375	6,817	4,067	2,880
Q2	345,884	189,811	36,755	57,163	27,264	4,232	4,957	3,318
Q3	416,912	261,252	13,048	97,057	60,509	1,566	5,291	3,489
Q4	305,788	188,073	14,049	52,662	25,504	3,243	3,316	2,191
1999 Q1	226,757	135,329	25,624	41,266	17,534	3,190	2,709	1,951
Q2	311,707	170,971	19,066	103,901	71,354	789	3,507	1,861
Q3	311,474	193,701	21,393	109,850	62,438	479	4,148	2,497
Q4	292,167	152,158	35,370	64,128	21,278	1,473	3,812	2,368
2000 Q1	310,172	243,234	10,966	60,084	20,194	1,258	2,219	1,527
Q2	363,163	205,899	30,805	83,816	44,182	6,223	3,559	2,468
Q3	336,460	218,441	17,911	78,563	41,930	364	3,310	1,989
Q4	287,475	201,291	17,152	73,062	41,268	6,918	3,265	2,219
% change from:								
previous Q	-14.6%	-7.9%	-4.2%	-7.0%	-1.6%	1800.5%	-1.4%	11.6%
same Q last year	-1.6%	32.3%	-51.5%	13.9%	93.9%	369.7%	-14.3%	-6.3%
Monthly								
Jul-99	108,298	66,820	7,326	39,062	15,300	76	1,424	857
Aug-99	118,903	75,091	5,700	35,572	27,339	83	1,321	799
Sep-99	84,273	51,790	8,367	35,216	19,799	320	1,403	841
Oct-99	75,265	32,384	10,416	20,347	6,173	312	1,094	592
Nov-99	112,176	70,353	4,128	27,040	4,775	910	1,450	808
Dec-99	104,726	49,421	20,826	16,741	10,330	251	1,268	968
Jan-00	173,965	153,746	4,586	24,730	9,418	526	525	330
Feb-00	46,093	26,196	3,035	22,578	7,287	226	992	752
Mar-00	90,114	63,292	3,345	12,776	3,489	506	702	445
Apr-00	116,772	56,965	13,559	17,761	7,955	385	1,193	856
May-00	119,429	64,015	11,797	26,484	9,156	5,679	1,264	965
Jun-00	126,962	84,919	5,449	39,571	27,071	159	1,102	647
Jul-00	99,500	68,368	6,626	28,394	16,362	176	1,125	608
Aug-00	109,883	55,251	9,706	26,204	15,057	93	867	555
Sep-00	127,077	94,822	1,579	23,965	10,511	95	1,318	826
Oct-00	115,218	74,941	3,745	20,814	8,547	665	1,549	1,167
Nov-00	63,168	36,957	10,052	24,084	13,160	779	877	522
Dec-00	109,089	89,393	3,355	28,164	19,561	5,474	839	530
% change from:								
previous month	72.7%	141.9%	-66.6%	16.9%	48.6%	602.7%	-4.3%	1.5%
same month last year	4.2%	80.9%	-83.9%	68.2%	89.4%	2080.9%	-33.8%	-45.2%

Sources: Canada Mortgage and Housing, Statistics Canada.
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TABLE 5

Chartered Bank Business Loans in British Columbia				
	Less than \$200,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	Greater than \$500,000	Total
	(\$,000,000)			
Annual Averages				
1992	2,222	698	6,545	9,464
1993	1,858	688	5,615	8,160
1994	1,802	658	4,732	7,191
1995	1,791	1,451	9,043	12,284
1996	1,861	1,508	9,162	12,530
1997	1,985	1,724	10,081	13,790
1998	2,172	1,825	11,077	15,074
1999	2,084	1,710	10,807	14,601
2000	2,045	1,605	10,575	14,224
% change from: previous year	-1.9%	-6.2%	-2.1%	-2.6%
Quarterly				
1994 Q1	1,729	1,106	8,518	11,353
Q2	1,803	1,183	8,444	11,430
Q3	1,704	1,298	8,938	11,940
Q4	1,878	1,301	8,303	11,482
1995 Q1	1,694	1,413	9,268	12,375
Q2	1,779	1,457	9,047	12,283
Q3	1,832	1,462	9,020	12,314
Q4	1,859	1,471	8,835	12,165
1996 Q1	1,860	1,487	8,988	12,335
Q2	1,893	1,512	9,094	12,499
Q3	1,864	1,501	9,252	12,617
Q4	1,825	1,533	9,312	12,670
1997 Q1	1,686	1,534	9,853	13,073
Q2	2,068	1,751	9,751	13,570
Q3	2,088	1,770	10,337	14,195
Q4	2,098	1,841	10,384	14,323
1998 Q1	2,180	1,842	11,115	15,137
Q2	2,174	1,842	11,338	15,354
Q3	2,178	1,816	11,104	15,098
Q4	2,157	1,801	10,750	14,708
1999 Q1	2,128	1,792	10,908	14,828
Q2	2,108	1,735	10,975	14,818
Q3	2,080	1,686	10,876	14,642
Q4	2,020	1,627	10,467	14,114
2000 Q1	2,035	1,631	10,636	14,302
Q2	2,063	1,638	10,812	14,513
Q3	2,059	1,586	10,608	14,253
Q4	2,021	1,564	10,244	13,829
% change from: previous Q	-1.8%	-1.4%	-3.4%	-3.0%
same Q last year	0.0%	-3.9%	-2.1%	-2.0%

Manufacturers' Outlook for Business Conditions
Companies With Annual Shipments Less Than \$10 million

Note: These data are gathered from the *Business Conditions Survey*, which is conducted quarterly in Jan., April, July and October. Most responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Manufacturers with more employees have a correspondingly larger impact on the results.

	Balance of Opinion at the Beginning of Quarter * (net of positive & negative percentages)			Percent of Manufacturers Experiencing Production Difficulties From:		
	Inventory Levels High or Low	Orders Rising or Falling (index)	Anticipated Production This Quarter	Working Capital Shortage	Skilled Labour Shortage (%)	Unskilled Labour Shortage
Annual Averages						
1992	12	-11	-6	14	10	1
1993	7	2	3	17	13	1
1994	9	16	13	15	18	1
1995	9	2	4	16	16	2
1996	4	-6	-2	12	15	1
1997	3	6	4	11	15	2
1998	7	-15	-9	10	14	1
1999	6	-4	7	10	16	1
2000	7	-1	5	11	21	2
Quarterly						
1995 Q1	6	3	-7	14	18	1
Q2	7	14	36	15	15	2
Q3	9	-4	-2	17	14	2
Q4	12	-4	-11	16	16	2
1996 Q1	3	-21	-21	12	14	2
Q2	10	-6	15	15	14	0
Q3	1	-1	6	10	17	1
Q4	1	5	-9	9	14	2
1997 Q1	0	-9	-10	10	15	2
Q2	0	9	25	12	13	1
Q3	8	16	13	12	14	1
Q4	4	7	-11	8	17	3
1998 Q1	6	1	-9	9	13	0
Q2	6	-12	18	11	12	1
Q3	9	-22	-15	13	16	0
Q4	8	-25	-29	8	16	3
1999 Q1	6	-32	-20	8	12	2
Q2	5	5	29	11	14	0
Q3	8	8	21	9	14	1
Q4	4	4	-3	12	25	2
2000 Q1	4	-1	-5	10	19	1
Q2	9	13	24	11	23	2
Q3	7	-6	7	14	19	2
Q4	6	-8	-5	10	23	4

* Note: For Inventory Levels, a positive balance indicates too much inventory, and is thus unfavourable.

For New Orders and Production, a positive balance of opinion is favourable.

Manufacturers' Outlook for Business Conditions
Companies With Annual Shipments of \$10 million or More

Note: These data are gathered from the *Business Conditions Survey*, which is conducted quarterly in Jan., April, July and October. Most responses are recorded in the first two weeks of these months. Manufacturers with more employees have a correspondingly larger impact on the results.

Balance of Opinion at the Beginning of Quarter * (net of positive & negative percentages)				Percent of Manufacturers Experiencing Production Difficulties From:		
Inventory Levels High or Low	Orders Rising or Falling (index)	Anticipated Production This Quarter		Working Capital Shortage	Skilled Labour Shortage	Unskilled Labour Shortage
Annual Averages					(%)	
1992	25	-10	-7	19	2	0
1993	30	2	3	10	3	0
1994	18	12	6	8	6	0
1995	17	1	-1	6	5	0
1996	30	-7	-7	6	3	0
1997	29	0	4	5	3	0
1998	37	-26	-7	8	3	0
1999	18	3	6	7	4	0
2000	20	1	3	4	7	2
Quarterly						
1995 Q1	13	10	-10	5	6	0
Q2	14	8	11	5	6	0
Q3	17	-6	0	6	3	0
Q4	22	-8	-5	7	6	0
1996 Q1	37	-29	-12	8	2	0
Q2	33	-14	-3	8	7	0
Q3	29	10	-2	6	1	0
Q4	21	7	-10	2	1	0
1997 Q1	31	-6	-1	5	1	0
Q2	31	4	15	4	4	0
Q3	24	7	13	6	4	0
Q4	28	-4	-13	6	3	0
1998 Q1	42	-33	-22	7	2	0
Q2	34	-9	1	8	4	0
Q3	33	-33	-2	11	3	0
Q4	38	-30	-4	6	2	1
1999 Q1	25	-24	-4	4	2	0
Q2	22	2	8	12	2	0
Q3	14	23	18	5	5	0
Q4	11	12	0	7	6	0
2000 Q1	14	13	8	5	10	3
Q2	24	11	10	5	10	3
Q3	29	-12	2	1	2	0
Q4	11	-7	-8	5	5	0

* **Note:** For Inventory Levels, a positive balance indicates too much inventory, and is thus unfavourable.
 For New Orders and Production, a positive balance of opinion is favourable.